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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF LITHUANIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Referring to the letter dated 13 December 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania addressed to the Secretary-General (S/23287), we have the honour to kindly request that the attached text of the joint communiqué issued on 31 January 1992 in Vilnius by State delegations of the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation on the issue of withdrawal of military units of the former Soviet Union's armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Lithuania
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex

COMMUNIQUE

ON THE WORKING MEETING BETWEEN THE STATE DELEGATIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, 31 January 1992

[Original: English/Russian]

As was decided at the working meeting between the President of the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin, and the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, V. Landsbergis, a working meeting took place on 31 January 1992 in Vilnius between the State delegation of the Russian Federation headed by Vice Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and State Advisor on legal political affairs, S. Shakhray, and the State delegation of the Republic of Lithuania headed by the Vice President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, Č. Stankevičius. The question of withdrawal of the former Soviet Union's armed forces units, currently under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania was discussed.

During an open and constructive dialogue, the States confirmed that they are resolved to develop relations of good neighbourliness and mutual benefit on an equal basis between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Lithuania in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter and other universally recognized norms of international law, strictly adhering to obligations assumed under the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on Interstate Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Lithuania. The States emphasized that the ratification of the aforementioned Treaty put relations between the two States on a new plane and laid the international legal basis for further bilateral negotiations on the military and political issues in question, as well as economic, humanitarian and other affairs, creating favourable conditions for constructive participation by Russia and Lithuania in the European process, in strengthening stability and cooperation in Europe and in the world.

The Russian delegation emphasized that the question of army withdrawal will be settled in deference to the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania and in strict observance of Lithuanian laws and Lithuanian-Russian agreements. The Lithuanian delegation stated that it was ready to honour the interests of the Russian Federation relating to the withdrawal of the army from Lithuanian territory.

The Parties came to an agreement to immediately embark on the preparation of an agreement of a planned withdrawal of the aforementioned armed forces determining the date and procedure of withdrawal and also the legal status for the period until the final withdrawal. The delegations agreed to consider

this meeting the commencement of negotiations on the preparation of such an agreement. At the same time the Parties came to an understanding that there are certain factors which influence the date and schedule of withdrawal of the armed forces, including the security of the Republic of Lithuania and social protection for the servicemen, agreeing to take these factors into consideration in discussing the issues of the army withdrawal. The Parties came to an understanding that the withdrawal of the army currently under the jurisdiction of Russia from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be a contribution to strengthening security and strategic stability on the European continent and in the world.

An agreement was reached that the withdrawal of the military sub-units from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will begin in February 1992.

The Parties confirmed their agreement on the immediate resolution of critical issues in connection with supplies to the military units on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Parties intend to discuss the conditions of transferring by the Russian Federation a defined amount and type of arms, military equipment and ammunition for the [arming] supply of the sub-units of national defence of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Parties agreed that they will establish a procedure of inspection, appoint inspectors and execute, on a bilateral basis, the inspection of the establishments on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania currently occupied by the withdrawing army.

The Parties agreed to form expert groups essential for the conclusion of an agreement and decided that these groups should commence their work in Vilnius, on 10 February 1992.

S. Shakhray

Č. Stankevičius